

SENATE RESOLUTION 91

By Faulk

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Taylor Jackson and Stephen Marcus upon winning the Tennessee State Championship in Duo Interpretation.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those students who, through their natural talents and unflagging commitment to academic excellence, have distinguished themselves in and out of the classroom; and

WHEREAS, Taylor Jackson and Stephen Marcus, members of the Jefferson County High School Forensics Team, are two such exceptional students who were recently named the winners of the Tennessee State Championship in Duo Interpretation at the National Forensics League Team Qualifiers in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, through diligent study, steady composure, and steadfast commitment of time and talent, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Marcus have achieved outstanding academic success and have joined the ranks of the best and brightest students in Tennessee and our country; and

WHEREAS, as state champions, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Marcus are automatically qualified to go on to the National Finals in June 2012; and

WHEREAS, they will have the opportunity to compete at the National Speech & Debate Championships in Indianapolis, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, Taylor Jackson and Stephen Marcus also individually qualified high enough to be eligible to compete in the All Star Tournament in San Francisco, California, in May 2012; and

WHEREAS, under the astute leadership of coaches Bryan McCampbell and Aaron Bowen, Mr. Jackson placed fifth individually overall, making him a first alternate to the state's national team, and Mr. Marcus placed third, making him a double qualifier to be on the state's national team; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County's Forensics Team holds memberships in two organizations, the National Forensics League and the District High School Speech & Drama League, so the duo interpreters will be facing further competitions prior to the National Finals; and

WHEREAS, Taylor Jackson and Stephen Marcus have won all of these competitions with their superb duet interpretation of *Sounds of Silence*, a moving dramatic reading about two brothers, one of whom is deaf as a result of brain tumors and the other his resentful older brother; and

WHEREAS, the interpretation opens with the older brother addressing the deaf boy's tombstone and takes the audience through a brief revelation of the time that preceded the boy's death; and

WHEREAS, both Mr. Jackson and Mr. Marcus are so dedicated to the craft that they studied American Sign Language in order to enhance their outstanding performances, giving the interpretation an added touch of realism; and

WHEREAS, Taylor Jackson has auditioned and already been awarded a \$23,000 scholarship to Maryville College to study theater arts and forensics, and Stephen Marcus will likely receive the same type of recognition for his own gifts; and

WHEREAS, their noteworthy achievements are a tremendous source of pride for their families, their school, and their community; and

WHEREAS, Taylor Jackson and Stephen Marcus's dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby commend and honor Taylor Jackson and Stephen Marcus upon winning the Tennessee State Championship in Duo Interpretation and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.